

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management

Office of Communications

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

News and Information
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OHV Education and Compliance Checks Increase

CENTRAL OREGON—Over the last several years, there has been a dramatic increase in off-highway vehicle (OHV) use of Central Oregon designated trail systems on public lands. This has placed a greater emphasis on the need for public education, compliance, and enforcement of regulations.

During the month of February, BLM Law Enforcement Rangers issued 18 written warnings and six citations to OHV riders at the Millican Valley OHV Trail System for various infractions. Several riders were sent home before they could unload because they did not meet posted requirements. Other saturation patrols have been scheduled for BLM lands, and the Forest Service has scheduled several dates for spot compliance checks along the trails at East Fort Rock OHV Trail System.

Enter COHVOPS (Combined Off-Highway Vehicle Operations Group). This dedicated group of public lands OHV Coordinators manages about 630 miles of designated trails in Central Oregon. The trails are located in terrain varying from the high desert of the Prineville District BLM to the mature pine stands of the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests.

COHVOPS works closely with BLM Rangers and Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers to enforce spark arrestor, ATV sticker, and sound level requirements as well as licensing requirements for children who ride OHVs on public lands. Beyond enforcement, COHVOPS emphasizes education, preparedness and proper etiquette for OHV enthusiasts who enjoy recreating on public lands.

In an ongoing effort to help OHV enthusiasts play legally on public lands, COHVOPS is setting up free “tech checks” in April and May. Riders may bring their OHV’s to have sound, spark arrestors and stickers checked, thus ensuring compliance with requirements for public lands riding. On April 5th the “tech checks” will be performed at Cascade Yamaha/Ski-Doo from 9 am- 1 pm. On Sunday April 6th free checks will be available at the Road 2510 Staging Area on the East Fort Rock OHV Trail System from 8am to noon. And on May 3, checks will be available at Central Oregon Workensport from 8am to 1pm and on the 4th, again at the Road 2510 Staging Area on the East Fort Rock OHV Trail System from 8am to noon.

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COHVOPS's objective is to "provide consistent, quality off-highway vehicle opportunities that are focused on customer service and resource protection." Educated riders are responsible riders, and responsible riders help keep public lands open. For further information on any of these topics, please contact the COHVOPS Coordinator at (541) 383-4004 or the Prineville BLM OHV Coordinator at (541) 416-6865. A website is also available at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/recreation/cohvops

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